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9 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Messrs. [redacted] Paul Walsh,
and Richard Lehman

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SUBJECT : U. S. Army Personnel Loan Overture

1. Brig. Gen. John Cleland is an officer in the U. S. Army's DESOPS, where he works closely with Lt. Gen. Richard Stilwell for whom Cleland also worked when the latter was COMUSMACTHAI. Cleland has floated an informal overture through my deputy, [redacted]

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2. In essence, the overture is designed to see if there is any Agency interest in having one of our officers assigned on a loan basis to the U. S. Army (DESOPS) staff. A draft job description outlining what the Army has in mind and, by inference, the kind of person they are looking for, is appended hereto. Cleland is not pushing hard, but is reflecting an apparently genuine desire on the part of the Army to set up the assignment of an Agency officer in a role analogous to that of State Department FSO's who, for some time, have been posted on detail to this type of activity. Without pressing at all, Cleland has suggested that such an assignment could well be beneficial to the Army, to the Agency, and also to the officer involved. The latter would gain a perspective and a broadening type of experience which could benefit him and his parent Agency component when he returns.

3. I get the distinct impression that the officer in whom Cleland is most interested is [redacted]

[redacted] Cleland's overture is not specifically keyed [redacted] however, and perhaps the job description would suggest a DDP officer more than a careerist in the DDI.

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4. The sordid question of slot and payment has not been raised. Since the matter was raised by the Army on its initiative, and since the Army seems quite anxious to pursue it, it is quite possible that the Army would be willing to absorb any costs involved.

5. I am sending this memo to the three of you to ascertain if any or all of you might have some interest in looking into this possibility. If so, the next step should probably be direct conversations between Gen. Cleland and the Agency component most interested in pursuing his offer. Our role is simply that of a middle man and we would propose to bow out if any or all of you wish to explore this further.

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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